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EDUCATION TANZANIA

Although Tanzania has made progress in access and equity in education, there are few corresponding advances in educational quality, particularly in the early grades. Reading skills in particular remain a challenge among Tanzanian students—fewer than one in 10 students in the early grades are able to read with comprehension. Complicating the matter is a lack of available resources for teachers and students: 25 percent of classrooms lack Kiswahili readers or textbooks, and only 25 percent of teachers in the early grades report receiving pre-service or in-service training. While Tanzania is close to achieving gender parity in primary education, a number of gender inequalities also exist. Early marriage and pregnancy continue to impede girls' access to education, while less than 20 percent of women age 20-24 have completed secondary school and 20 percent have had no education at all.

USAID/Tanzania's education program supports improving student outcomes in reading in Kiswahili, the local language, for grades one through four. *Tusome Pamoja* ("Let's Read Together") is working at the national, district, and ward levels—and to some degree the regional level—to build the capacity of Tanzanian government institutions such as the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MOEST) and President's Office for Regional Administration and Local Government on several policy and institutional issues. This means (1) working with key stakeholders on teacher guides, student materials, and the training to use them; (2) building coaching and mentoring support for teachers; and (3) collecting data for evidence-based decision making and change.

The *Tusome Pamoja* program's primary goal is to increase the percentage of children who: a) after two years of schooling, can read and comprehend grade-level text and solve grade-level arithmetic problems, and; b) after four years of schooling, can read and comprehend grade-level text, respond to simple writing prompts, and solve grade-level arithmetic problems.

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EDUCATION OVERVIEW

FUNDING LEVEL

- *Tusome Pamoja*: \$67 million (FY 2016-FY 2021)
- Let Girls Learn: to be awarded fall 2016

MAJOR PARTNERS

- Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MOEST)
- President's Office for Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG)
- Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Tanzania Mainland

- Morogoro
- Iringa
- Ruvuma
- Mtwara

Zanzibar

- Unguja
- Pemba

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Tusome Pamoja is a results-oriented, evidence-based early grade reading program following best practices. The professional development program for effective early grade reading instruction is based on the five core strands of a reading curriculum: phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. Materials will be developed to support early grade reading instruction, including teacher manuals and leveled, decodable supplementary readers in Kiswahili for use with students.

Gender considerations are an important aspect of curriculum development, training, and improving the school environment. Education advocacy and awareness components focus on creating an appreciation of literacy while guiding communities and parents on how to support reading in their communities, schools, and households. The mission supports biannual national assessments of reading, writing, and arithmetic to evaluate the impact of interventions and inform MOEST policies and programs.

Tanzania is also a priority country under Let Girls Learn, a whole-of-government initiative to improve enrollment and retention in educational programs for adolescent girls. Implementation is expected to begin January 2017.

CHALLENGES

- Large student to teacher ratios
- Retaining teachers, especially in rural areas
- Retention rates for girls due to early pregnancies and early marriages
- Quality of basic education is low: the 2013 national early grade reading assessment found that only 8 percent of standard two pupils were able to read with grade-level comprehension

EXPECTED IMPACT

- Approximately 3,000 public primary schools from 34 districts will benefit, with an estimated 1.4 million children directly benefitting over the five-year *Tusome Pamoja* program
- *Tusome Pamoja* materials and methodologies will serve as models for Tanzanian-led reading, writing, and arithmetic reforms in other regions of the country